

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MELBOU 00797 242312Z

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ACTION EB-07

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FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2815

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TAGS EAIR, AS

SUBJ: CIVAIR: ATG VIEWS ON PAN AMERICAN COMMISSION CASE

1. AT PYMAN AND CHAPMAN'S REQUEST BROWN SPENT HOUR AND A HALF WITH THEM DISCUSSING ATG'S REACTION TO PAN AMERICAN'S COMMISSION ACTION. ATG ASKED PAA ACTING MANAGER TO ATTEND MEETING TOO, BUT HE REFUSED, UPON LEGAL ADVICE, AS CASE IS UNDER ADJUDICATION.

2. MAIN POINTS RAISED BY PYMAN AND CHAPMAN FOLLOW:

A) ATG CONCERNED THAT AUSTRALIAN MARKET WILL BE DISRUPTED AND DESTABILIZED BY PAA'S ACTION AND THAT A QTE CLEAN MARKET UNQTE WILL BE TURNED INTO A QTE DIRTY UNQTE ONE. ONCE DESTABILIZED IT WILL BE HARD TO REVERSE.

B) THEY CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY PAN AM IS TAKING THIS ACTION SINCE THEY FEEL LONG RANGE BENEFITS ARE BEING JEOPARDIZED FOR SHORT TERM EXPEDIENCY.

C) ATG FEELS HIGH COURT ACTION IS AN INTERIM AFFAIR AND NO REAL ANSWER BECAUSE IF GOVT LOSES NEW REGULATIONS CAN ALWAYS BE PROMULGATED. ESSENTIALLY SOLUTION IS FOR INDUSTRY TO FIND ITS OWN WAY, AT IATA MEETING.

3. PYMAN AND CHAPMAN THEN OFFERED A COMPROMISE. IF PAA WOULD
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PAGE 02 MELBOU 00797 242312Z

IMMEDIATELY STOP PAYING COMMISSIONS AND REFRAIN FROM FURTHER

PAYMENTS UNTIL AFTER JULY IATA MEETING RESULTS ARE KNOWN AND TESTED, THEY WOULD SEE TO IT THAT QANTAS COOPERATED BY FOLLOWING SAME PRACTICES.

2. THE ATG OFFICERS ALSO STRESSED THAT PAN AM IS NOW BREACHING GOA REGULATIONS BY PAYING THE HIGHER COMMISSION AND IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE ATG WILL BE FORCED TO ACT. SO FAR THEY HAVE PREVENTED POLITICAL REACTION TO THE CASE, BUT MINISTER JONES RETURNS TO AUSTRALIA ON JUNE 25 AND COULD VERY WELL SET OFF A WHOLE NEW SET OF FIREWORKS.

5. IN DISCUSSING ATG MEETING WITH PAA ACTING MANAGER MADE NO MENTION OF THE PROPOSITION IN PARA THREE. ONLY TOLD HIM THAT ATG WAS CONCERNED ABOUT DESTABILIZATION, ETC.

6. ASSUME DEPT WILL DISCUSS PARA THREE PROPOSAL WITH PAN AM.
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